M.Ps.' Local area Development Scheme

804. SHRI JALALUDIN ANSARI: Will the Minister of PLANNING AND PROGRAMME IMPLEMENTATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether a Member of Parliament can ask the District Magistrate concerned to handover the amount of Rs. 1 crore sanctioned for development work under MP's Local Area Development Scheme, to a contractor appointed by concerned MP for implementing various schemes in his constituency;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) if not, the guidelines issued to District Magistrates to deal such cases?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF PLANNING AND PROGRAMME IMPLEMENTATION (SHRI GIRIDHAR GAMANG): (a) No, Sir.

(b) In view of (a) above, the question does not arise.

(c) The District Magistrate is to have the proposals of the MP implemented as per the established procedure.

Revision of pay-scales in coal companies

805. SHRI RAM JETHMALANI: SHRIMATI SUSHMA SWARAJ:

Will the Minister of COAL be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Government had talks with trade unions recently and had entered into any agreement with them for revision of worker's pay-scales;

(b) if so, what would be the likely total additional financial burden on coal companies as a result of this agreement;

(c) whether it is also a fact that Government are taking decision to increase coal prices to meet this additional financial burden on coal companies;

(d) if so, what are the details on this regard; and

(e) whether production cost of coal in the country is higher than the cost in other coal producting countries of the world; and if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COAL (SHRI AJIT KUMAR PANJA): (a) A memorandum of Understanding has been signed on 29th April, 1995 between the representatives of workers and management on the Joint Bipartite Committee for Coal Industry V covering the broad terms of the National Coal Wage Agreement V.

(b) The additional annual burden on the subsidiaries of CIL will be Rs. 362.17 crores.

(c) No, Sir.

(d) Does not arise.

(e) No, Sir. The average cost of production per tonne compares favourably with the cost of coal produced in a number of countries.

Stoppage of coal movement

806. SHRI PARMESHWAR KUMAR AGARWALLA: Will the Minister of COAL be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government's attention has been drawn to a newsitem which appeared in the 'Observer' dated 19th June, 1995 under the caption "Stoppage of Coal movement hits MCL workers";

(b) if so, the authority which took the decision and with whose approval;

(c) what are the provisions of the liberalised Coal Sale Scheme and in what manner the reported decision to stop the sale of coal from Talcher is in pursuance of this scheme;

(d) what has been the impact of this decision on the local or nearby brick and tile manufacturers and other user industries in terms of quantum, quality and cost of supplies and also on the transporters, traders etc.; and